

REMARKS

A review of the claims indicates that:

- A) Claims 2 and 6—15 remain in their original form.
- B) Claims 1, 16, 17 and 18 are currently amended.
- C) Claims 3—5 and 19 are currently cancelled.
- D) Claims 23 and 24 are new.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejected claims and withdrawal of the rejections.

Correction to Claim 16

The Applicant has amended Claim 16 to add a “prime” in two locations. These primes (each being similar to a single quote) are believed to have been present in the original filing. However, they were not present in the on-line version of the published claims.

Correction to Claim 18

The Applicant has amended Claim 18 to remove a minus sign (“-“) found in front of a “y” in one location. This minus sign was not intended, and is not believed to have been present in the original filing. However, the minus sign was in the on-line version of the published claims.

35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under Section 101. In view of the claim cancellations, the rejection is moot. The cancellations were made specifically to speed prosecution, and do not constitute agreement with the Section 101 and/or Section 102 rejections of these claims.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejections

Claim 1 was rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,665,434, hereinafter "Yamaguchi". Purely to speed prosecution and issuance, and not to be construed as agreement with the Section 102 rejection, the Applicant has amended Claim 1 to recite elements of Claim 4. Claim 4 was found to be allowable. Accordingly, Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance.

Claim 2 is allowable at least because it depends from a claim allowable for at least the reasons seen above.

Claim 3 has been cancelled specifically to speed prosecution. More particularly, the elements of Claim 3 have been combined with the elements of original Claim 1, and are now seen as new Claim 24.

Claim 4 has been cancelled specifically to speed prosecution. More particularly, the elements of Claim 4 have been combined with the elements of original Claim 1, as noted above.

Claim 5 has been cancelled specifically to speed prosecution. More particularly, the elements of Claim 5 have been combined with the elements of original Claim 1, and are now seen as new Claim 23.

Claim 6—16 are allowable at least because each of these claims depends from Claim 1, which is allowable for at least the reasons seen above.

Claim 17 was rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,665,434, hereinafter "Yamaguchi". Purely to speed prosecution and issuance, and not to be construed as agreement with the Section 102 rejection, the Applicant has amended Claim 17 to recite elements of Claim 19. Claim 19 was found to be allowable. Accordingly, Claim 17 is now in condition for allowance.

1 Claim 18 was found to have allowable subject matter, and has been put into
2 condition for allowance.

3 Claim 19 was cancelled to put Claim 17 into condition for allowance.

4 Claim 20 was found to have allowable subject matter, and has been put into
5 condition for allowance.

6 Claims 21 and 22 were rejected under Section 102(e) as being anticipated
7 by US 7,251,058, hereinafter "Pop". Purely to speed prosecution and issuance and
8 to save money on new claim fees, and not to be construed as agreement with the
9 Section 102 rejection, the Applicant has cancelled these claims.

10
11 **New Claims**

12 Claims 23 and 24 are new.

13 Claim 23 recites the elements of original Claim 1 and objected-to Claim 5,
14 and is allowable for at least that reason.

15 Claim 24 recites the elements of original Claim 1 and objected-to Claim 3,
16 and is allowable for at least that reason.

17
18 **Conclusion**

19 The Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance
20 and respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowability be issued. If the Office's
21 next anticipated action is not the issuance of a Notice of Allowability, the
22 Applicant respectfully requests that the undersigned attorney be contacted for the
23 purpose of scheduling an interview.

1 Respectfully Submitted,

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